



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-06-101

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DECEMBER 12, 2005**

### **PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS IN WASHINGTON AND INNSBROOK IN REQUEST TO EXPAND THE ST. LOUIS MCA**

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Public Service Commission seeks customer comment at two local public hearings to be held in January in a case seeking expansion of the current St. Louis Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan. Under the Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan, subscribing customers in an MCA exchange can have certain outgoing and incoming toll-free calling benefits and would pay a flat monthly rate for the MCA service.

The Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Washington, Missouri on January 12, 2006** and in **Innsbrook, Missouri on January 18, 2006**. Times and locations are listed below:

**January 12, 2006**

**Washington**

City Hall

Council Chambers

405 Jefferson Street

5:30 pm\*

**January 18, 2006**

**Innsbrook**

Innsbrook Resort and Conference Center

Aspen Room

#1 Aspen Circle Drive

5:30 pm\*

**\* At 5:30 pm, the PSC Staff will conduct an informal session to answer questions from the public.**

**The local public hearing where testimony is taken starts at 6:00 pm and will continue until the public in attendance has had an opportunity to testify, but in no case later than 8:00 pm.**

These local public hearings will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing date.

The Commission has before it a case requesting expansion of the St. Louis Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan to include the telephone exchanges of Washington, Union, Wright City, St. Clair, Marthasville, Beaufort, Foley and Warrenton. The Office of the Public Counsel, which filed the request, suggested that a new Tier 6 be added to the St. Louis MCA plan and that it be priced the same as Tier 5 exchanges --\$32.50 a month for residential customers and \$70.70 a month for business customers.

The Office of the Public Counsel proposed the service be optional and would be an additional charge above the charge for local service and any other Extended Area Service (EAS) charges.

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Customers subscribing to the optional service would be required to change their current telephone number.

**SBC Missouri exchanges (Beaufort, St. Clair, Union and Washington):** An agreement has been filed with the Public Service Commission involving these exchanges of SBC Missouri. Under the agreement, the four SBC Missouri exchanges would be added to Tier 5 of the current St. Louis MCA plan. MCA would be an optional service and subscribers would pay an additional \$32.50 a month (residential) and \$70.70 a month (business) if they want the service.

The agreement states that customers in these four SBC Missouri exchanges that choose to subscribe to MCA service will need to have their telephone numbers changed to reflect MCA telephone numbers.

**CenturyTel exchanges (Foley, Marthasville, Warrenton and Wright City):** The Office of the Public Counsel's recommendation would apply to these exchanges as well. CenturyTel has indicated to the Commission that it is diligently pursuing settlement discussions and negotiations but that an agreement has not been reached at this time.